

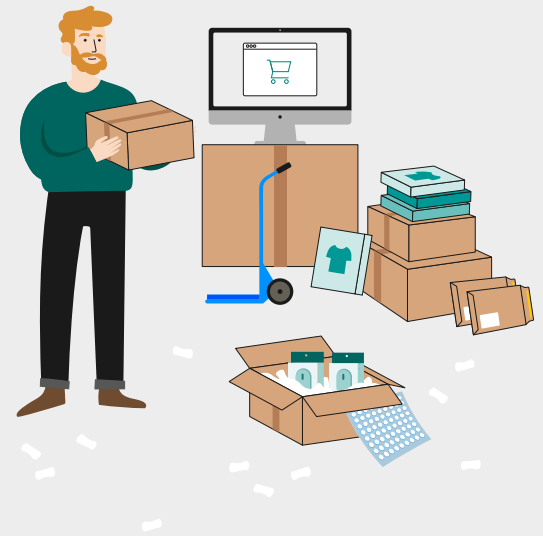
Online retailer opens a shop

An online retailer opens a shop during the current year, e. g. on 1 May. What kind of data report do they have to file with the LUCID Packaging Register?

To ship goods to customers, the online retailer uses the following:

- Packaging (cartons and shipping envelopes) made from paper, paperboard or cardboard
- Address labels made from paper
- Tape made from plastics
- Bubble wrap made from plastics

Using these types of packaging for their goods is what makes the online retailer the 'initial distributor' of that packaging including all its components.



What obligations under packaging law does the online retailer have to fulfil?

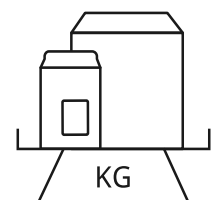
- Register with the LUCID Packaging Register
- Conclude a system participation agreement with a system operator to pay for the recycling of the packaging and its components
- File volume reports on the packaging volumes with the system operator and the LUCID Packaging Register

This is what online retailers must do to fulfil their obligation to report data to the LUCID Packaging Register

To be able to report packaging volumes to the system operator and the LUCID Packaging Register, the online retailer must know the weight of their packaging and all packaging components.

There are two ways to determine the weight:

- The supplier of the packaging shares information about the weight of the packaging and/or components (e.g. on the invoice or delivery note).
- The online retailer weighs the empty packaging, and multiplies that weight by the number of articles of packaging that will probably be shipped during the reporting period. The basis for the latter is the online retailer's own sales forecast.



What's the next step?

Same reporting period, same packaging type, same volume: Every data report starts with a system participation agreement. The type of report an online retailer has to file with the LUCID Packaging Register depends on what has been agreed upon between the retailer and the system operator. In our example, the online retailer has to submit the following reports:

1. Planned volume report for the current year (forecast reports)

An online retailer opened a shop this calendar year and is planning to place the following packaging volumes on the German market by year-end:

- 25 kg of paper, paperboard, cardboard (PPC) for shipment packaging including labels
- 7 kg of plastics for filler material (bubble wrap) and tape

The online retailer has reported these volumes to their system operator, and has to report the exact same volumes to the LUCID Packaging Register. In the LUCID Packaging Register, the volumes have to be filed as an 'intra-year volume report' because the planned volumes refer to the remainder of the current year.

What has to be reported?

- Reporting period as defined in the system participation agreement. The system participation agreement may define the period as January to December, even though the online retailer did not open their shop until May, September or some other point in time during the current year.
- System operator
- Packaging volumes: 25.000 kg of paper, paperboard and cardboard (PPC), plus 7.000 kg of plastics (exact figures to the third decimal point)



Volumes of material types (in kg, stated to three decimal places, tonnes must be converted to kg. List can be moved with scroll bar.)

System operator	System	Other system operator
Glass	0.000 kg	
Paper, paperboard, cardboard	25.000 kg	
Ferrous metals	0.000 kg	
Aluminium	0.000 kg	
Beverage carton packaging	0.000 kg	
Other composite packaging	0.000 kg	
Plastics	7.000 kg	
Other materials	0.000 kg	

2. Planned volume report for the next calendar year (forecast report)

At the end of the year, the online retailer renews the system participation agreement for the next calendar year, indicating that the packaging volumes planned for the next calendar year total 7.5 kg for plastics and 26.5 kg in paper, paperboard and cardboard. As soon as the system participation agreement has been renewed, the online retailer immediately files an 'initial planned volume report' with those volumes in the LUCID Packaging Register. This report includes the following data:

- Reporting period: the next year (that's the year the system participation agreement refers to)
- System operator
- Packaging volumes: 26.500 kg of paper, paperboard and cardboard, plus 7.000 kg of plastics



The deadline for submitting an 'initial planned volume report' for the next calendar year is 31 December of the current year.

3. Actual volume report for the past calendar year (year-end volume report)

The system participation agreement stipulates that the online retailer must report the packaging volumes they actually placed on the market during the previous calendar year to the system operator. The online retailer shipped more goods than originally planned in their first year. 7.5 kg in plastics, and 25.5 kg in paper-board and cardboard. In other words, the actual volume of packaging is larger than the forecasted volume indicated in the intra-year volume report. As soon as this report has been filed with the system operator, the online retailer immediately has to file a 'year-end volume report' with the packaging volumes for the past year in the LUCID Packaging Register.



The deadline for submitting a 'year-end volume report' for the past calendar year is 15 May of the current year.

Where can I find further information?

Your obligations at a glance: registration, participation, reporting [↗](#)

Quick start page for mail order companies and online retailers [↗](#)

LUCID Packaging Register [↗](#)

Do you need IT-related support or do you have general questions regarding the obligations under German packaging law?

Contact our support team at +49 541 34310555

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00 CET (public holidays in Lower Saxony excepted)